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TEXAS
Labor Market Reviews

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION MARCH 1984 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78778

UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES

The Texas economic outlook brightened considerably in February, as unemployment dropped by 105,700 from the January level. The decrease put total unemployment at 450,100, or 5.9 percent, in the actual series -- the lowest rate recorded since April 1982. That was the last month before the National recession and the decrease in demand for domestic oil began impacting on the State. Total employment climbed by 96,300 between January and February, to a level of 7,175,200 at mid-February. The rise in employment and corresponding drop in unemployment is the result of increasing diversification and growth in several sectors of the State's economy.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
(In Thousands)

	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
United States (Actual)			
Labor Force	111,368.0	111,025.0	109,647.0
Unemployment	9,407.0	9,755.0	12,382.0
Percent Unemployed	8.4	8.8	11.3
Total Employment	101,961.0	101,270.0	97,265.0
United States (Seasonally Adjusted)			
Labor Force	112,693.0	112,215.0	110,688.0
Unemployment	8,801.0	9,026.0	11,516.0
Percent Unemployed	7.8	8.0	10.4
Total Employment	103,892.0	103,189.0	99,172.0
State of Texas (Actual)			
Labor Force	7,625.3	7,634 7	7,551.9
Unemployment	450.1	555.8	666.5
Percent Unemployed	5.9	7.3	8.8
Total Employment	7,175.2	7,078.9	6,885.4
State of Texas (Seasonally Adjusted)			
Labor Force	7,632.0	7,648.0	7,561.0
Unemployment	433.0	530.0	652.0
Percent Unemployed	5.7	6.9	8.6
Total Employment	7,199.0	7,118.0	6,909.0

The seasonally adjusted series followed the same pattern as the actual, with large employment gains and even larger decreases in unemployment over the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped from 6.9 percent in January to 5.7 percent in February. This was also the lowest rate recorded in the seasonally adjusted series for about two years. The National seasonally adjusted rate slid from 8.0 percent to 7.8 percent over the month. The actual U. S. rate also declined from 8.8 percent to 8.4 percent.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY JOBS INCREASE

The number of salaried nonfarm jobs in Texas showed more expansion between January and February 1984 than in any year since 1981, with growth fairly evenly spread among the major industry sectors. Two industries -- trade and construction -- were the exceptions to the widespread growth in February.

Seasonal declines pushed employment down in the retail portion of trade, as general merchandise stores lost 7,900 jobs and apparel and accessory stores dropped 1,700 positions. Many of these were jobs created for the Christmas rush and held over to help with inventory. Inclement weather further depressed the construction industry

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/
TEXAS STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

	Feb.'84*	Jan.'84**	Feb.'83*	Feb.'84*	Jan.'84**	Feb.'83**	Feb.'84*	Jan.'84**	Feb.'83**
	ABILENE			AMARILLO			AUSTIN		
TOTAL	57,600	57,500	57,700	77,800	77,800	76,100	294,000	290,200	281,000
Manufacturing	5,900	5,800	,200	9,200	9,400	9,500	34,500	34,300	32,700
Mining	4,200	4,200	4,600	2,000	2,000	2,100	800	800	800
Construction	3,000	3,000	2,500	3,700	3,600	3,500	18,800	18,600	15,900
Trans., Comm., & Util.	3,200	3,200	3,200	6,400	6,500	6,400	8,100	8,100	7,900
Trade	15,000	15,000	14,600	23,500	23,400	22,300	66,200	66,000	62,700
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	3,200	3,200	3,100	4,300	4,300	4,100	18,500	18,500	17,900
Services & Misc.	13,500	13,600	13,000	14,500	14,500	14,600	58,600	58,200	56,000
Government	9,600	9,500	9,500	14,200	14,100	13,600	88,500	85,700	87,100
	BEAUMONT-PT. A.-ORANGE			BROWNS.-HARL.-SAN BENITO			BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION		
TOTAL	140,000	138,500	142,400	63,000	62,600	61,300	46,300	44,200	45,400
Manufacturing	31,500	31,300	33,200	10,900	10,800	10,800	3,100	3,100	2,900
Mining	2,700	2,500	2,800	100	100	100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Construction	9,200	9,200	10,100	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,200	3,300	3,000
Trans., Comm., & Util.	11,700	11,400	12,000	3,000	3,100	3,200	1,800	1,700	1,700
Trade	32,800	32,800	32,400	17,100	16,900	16,500	10,000	10,000	9,800
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	5,600	5,600	5,600	3,100	3,100	3,100	1,900	1,900	1,800
Services & Misc.	26,200	25,700	25,900	11,200	11,200	10,500	6,500	6,400	6,600
Government	20,300	20,000	20,400	14,200	14,000	13,600	18,700	16,700	18,500
	CORPUS CHRISTI			DALLAS-FORT WORTH 2/			EL PASO		
TOTAL	127,300	126,500	131,100	1,614.2	1,606.3	1,537.4	164,900	164,100	163,000
Manufacturing	13,900	14,000	13,700	312.6	312.7	301.5	36,500	35,700	34,400
Mining	7,300	7,300	7,700	28.4	28.4	29.6	--	--	--
Construction	9,800	9,700	13,900	98.1	97.3	88.4	8,800	8,800	8,000
Trans., Comm., & Util.	7,600	7,300	7,700	98.1	97.6	94.8	9,700	9,600	10,000
Trade	32,000	31,800	31,500	431.7	434.9	411.7	39,800	40,200	39,800
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	6,400	6,400	6,300	131.8	131.1	122.8	7,900	8,000	7,800
Services & Misc.	23,500	23,400	23,600	322.7	317.7	302.4	27,700	27,800	28,600
Government	26,800	26,600	26,700	190.8	186.6	186.2	34,500	34,000	34,400
	GALVESTON-TEXAS CITY			HOUSTON 2/			KILLEEN-TEMPLE		
TOTAL	68,600	68,600	67,300	1,504.5	1,502.2	1,506.7	61,200	61,200	58,400
Manufacturing	10,200	10,200	10,500	195.2	195.2	207.0	8,600	8,600	7,700
Mining	800	800	700	98.5	98.6	100.3	--	--	--
Construction	4,000	4,600	4,100	129.2	131.4	137.2	3,700	3,600	3,000
Trans., Comm., & Util.	6,000	5,900	6,000	103.2	103.1	104.9	2,900	3,000	3,100
Trade	12,400	12,300	12,400	367.1	367.9	366.5	14,500	14,600	13,500
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	4,500	4,400	4,500	105.5	104.8	103.0	2,400	2,400	2,300
Services & Misc.	10,400	10,500	10,400	322.5	318.6	306.0	11,200	11,100	10,900
Government	20,300	19,900	18,700	183.3	182.6	181.8	17,900	17,900	17,900

2/ In Thousands

in February. Although the over-the-month loss was relatively small, the combined effects of tight money, high interest rates, and inflated construction costs have plummeted employment in construction by 4,600 from the February 1983 level.

Among those industries with employment gains in February, government was the leader, with 16,500 new jobs. Almost all of the improvement was concentrated in the state and local government sectors, where the commencement of the spring semester at colleges and schools boosted employment. These sectors also began hiring temporary workers and hiring to fill some previously vacant retirement positions.

The beginning of the school term also generated sizeable increases in educational services, contributing to the overall gain of 10,100 in services. The upcoming tax season also created new jobs, and membership organizations posted additions with the approach of spring. Other sectors of services recorded smaller advances over the month. Amusement, including motion pictures, reported increases as preparation for spring activities began. Hotels and other lodging places showed a moderate rise which brought employment back up to normal levels.

The continued demand for housing generated large increases among real estate operators and lessors, producing upward movement in other finance, insurance and real estate. Smaller increases were noted in the banking and the insurance carriers, agents and brokers sectors of finance, insurance and real estate.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/
TEXAS STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

Industry	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**
	LAREDO			LONGVIEW-MARSHALL			LUBBOCK		
TOTAL	30,000	30,100	30,100	67,000	67,100	67,000	90,800	90,000	91,700
Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,900	14,600	14,500	15,200	9,500	9,400	13,200
Mining	1,100	1,200	1,400	4,900	4,900	4,900	500	500	500
Construction	1,300	1,300	1,300	4,700	4,700	4,800	4,000	4,000	3,800
Trans., Comm., & Util.	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,700	3,700	3,600	4,900	4,900	4,700
Trade	8,900	8,900	9,100	17,000	17,200	16,900	26,500	26,600	25,600
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	1,400	1,400	1,400	2,800	2,800	2,900	5,400	5,300	5,200
Services & Misc.	5,000	5,000	4,800	10,900	11,000	10,800	19,000	18,900	18,200
Government	7,300	7,300	7,000	8,400	8,300	7,900	21,000	20,400	20,500
	MCALLEN-PHARR-EDINBURG			MIDLAND			ODESSA		
TOTAL	77,600	76,900	79,300	54,900	55,000	50,800	56,800	56,700	55,300
Manufacturing	9,700	9,400	10,600	4,000	3,900	3,500	5,900	5,900	6,600
Mining	1,400	1,500	1,400	12,500	12,500	12,700	8,900	8,800	8,800
Construction	5,100	5,200	5,100	3,300	3,500	3,700	4,300	4,200	4,400
Trans., Comm., & Util.	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,900	2,900	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,000
Trade	24,100	23,600	25,700	13,400	13,400	11,400	16,900	16,700	15,400
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	3,300	3,300	3,000	3,700	3,900	3,500	2,300	2,300	2,500
Services & Misc.	11,300	11,200	10,800	9,300	9,100	7,900	8,700	8,800	7,700
Government	20,000	20,000	20,100	5,800	5,800	5,200	6,800	7,000	6,900
	SAN ANGELO			SAN ANTONIO			SHERMAN-DENISON		
TOTAL	37,000	37,000	37,500	445,600	441,900	425,100	34,300	34,400	33,300
Manufacturing	5,500	5,600	5,700	49,900	49,200	48,200	11,500	11,500	10,600
Mining	800	800	1,000	3,500	3,500	3,300	200	200	200
Construction	2,200	2,300	2,500	30,800	30,600	29,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Trans., Comm., & Util.	3,700	3,700	3,800	18,500	18,400	17,400	2,100	2,100	2,100
Trade	8,900	8,900	8,900	113,600	113,300	106,400	6,800	6,800	7,000
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	1,700	1,600	1,500	32,200	32,000	30,500	1,300	1,300	1,300
Services & Misc.	7,400	7,400	7,600	96,500	95,200	91,500	6,300	6,300	6,100
Government	6,800	6,700	6,500	100,600	99,700	98,500	4,800	4,900	4,700
	TEXARKANA			TYLER			WACO		
TOTAL	45,600	45,800	44,300	58,000	57,800	56,800	75,800	74,400	71,700
Manufacturing	8,400	8,400	8,100	12,000	11,900	11,800	15,700	15,500	14,600
Mining	100	100	100	3,100	3,100	3,200	--	--	--
Construction	1,500	1,700	1,700	2,400	2,500	2,500	3,800	3,800	3,400
Trans., Comm., & Util.	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,900	2,900	2,800	3,200	3,200	3,200
Trade	10,700	10,700	10,100	14,500	14,500	14,300	19,100	18,900	17,800
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	1,700	1,700	1,600	3,200	3,200	3,100	4,600	4,500	4,500
Services & Misc.	8,400	8,400	7,800	11,800	11,700	11,300	17,600	16,900	16,700
Government	12,800	12,800	12,900	8,100	8,000	7,800	11,800	11,600	11,500
	WICHITA FALLS								
TOTAL	53,300	53,300	51,200						
Manufacturing	9,100	9,000	8,100						
Mining	3,300	3,300	3,200						
Construction	2,100	2,100	1,900						
Trans., Comm., & Util.	2,800	2,800	2,800						
Trade	13,400	13,500	12,900						
Fin., Ins., & Rl. Est.	2,500	2,500	2,600						
Services & Misc.	9,300	9,300	8,800						
Government	10,800	10,800	10,900						

1/Estimates prepared by TEC in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary -- subject to revision.
**Revised.

The two sectors of transportation led the increases in transportation and public utilities in February. Expansion among firms engaged in stevedoring was primarily responsible for the large growth in water transportation, which pushed transportation except railroads upward. Employment in railroad transportation also rose over the month, as business activity increased. Electric, gas and sanitary services recorded a modest advance in February, while communication remained almost unchanged.

Mining recorded a moderate increase of 1,300 in February, but this sector has shown a steady upward trend for the past five months. Although the recent expansion in oil and gas extraction is not as dramatic as increases recorded prior to 1982, any growth in this sector is very encouraging. Since September 1983, 8,300 jobs have been added in mining, and many associated industries are also being helped by the renewed activity.

Employers in manufacturing added 6,000 positions in February, with growth almost equally divided between durable goods and nondurable goods industries. In durable

TEXAS NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY ESTIMATES 1/

INDUSTRY	Feb. 1984*	Jan. 1984**	Feb. 1983**	Change From Jan. 1984	Change From Feb. 1983
±TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	6,257,500	6,224,900	6,107,700	32,600	149,800
Manufacturing	971,800	965,800	959,500	6,000	12,300
Durable Goods	556,600	553,200	550,400	3,400	6,200
Lumber & Wood Products	40,800	40,600	37,000	200	3,800
Logging Camps, Sawmills, Planing Mills	7,700	7,600	7,200	100	500
Furniture & Fixtures	17,800	17,800	15,700	0	2,100
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	47,800	47,200	43,500	600	4,300
Concrete, Gypsum & Plaster Products	22,300	21,900	20,100	400	2,200
Primary Metal Industries	34,200	34,000	33,700	200	500
Fabricated Metal Products	80,100	79,600	80,300	500	- 200
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	43,600	43,200	43,100	400	500
Machinery, Except Electrical	129,800	128,800	138,200	1,000	- 8,400
Oil Field Machinery	41,500	41,200	48,900	300	- 7,400
Electric & Electronic Equipment	99,000	98,400	97,000	600	2,000
Transportation Equipment	72,100	72,200	69,600	- 100	2,500
Aircraft & Parts	37,000	37,300	37,800	- 300	- 800
Instruments & Related Products	22,700	22,500	22,900	200	- 200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	12,300	12,100	12,500	200	- 200
Nondurable Goods	415,200	412,600	409,100	2,600	6,100
Food & Kindred Products	97,200	95,300	94,200	1,900	3,000
Meat Products	24,300	24,200	24,500	100	- 200
Dairy Products	4,900	4,900	4,800	0	100
Bakery Products	12,400	12,500	10,600	- 100	1,800
Malt Beverages	3,300	3,400	3,200	- 100	100
Textile Mill Products	4,900	4,800	5,000	100	- 100
Apparel & Other Finished Textile Products	60,600	60,400	59,500	200	1,100
Paper & Allied Products	22,200	22,200	21,400	0	800
Printing & Publishing	70,700	70,500	67,800	200	2,900
Newspaper, Periodicals, Books & Misc. Publ.	35,600	35,400	34,900	200	700
Chemicals & Allied Products	76,500	76,200	78,100	300	- 1,600
Petroleum & Coal Products	43,100	43,100	44,300	0	- 1,200
Petroleum Refining	39,800	39,800	41,200	0	- 1,400
Leather & Leather Products	8,200	8,500	8,800	- 300	- 600
Other Nondurable Goods	31,800	31,600	30,000	200	1,800
Total Nonmanufacturing	5,285,700	5,259,100	5,148,200	26,600	137,500
Mining	266,400	265,100	267,700	1,300	- 1,300
Oil & Gas Extraction	256,600	255,100	258,000	1,500	- 1,400
Metal & Coal & Nonmet. Mnrls., Exc. Fuel	9,800	10,000	9,700	- 200	100
Construction	404,700	405,200	409,300	- 500	- 4,600
Transportation & Public Utilities	376,000	373,700	367,500	2,300	8,500
Railroad Transportation	24,800	23,800	24,100	1,000	700
Transportation, Except Railroads	176,400	175,400	167,800	1,000	8,600
Transportation by Air	34,900	34,900	35,200	0	- 300
Communication, Exc. U. S. Postal Service	96,800	96,700	96,000	100	800
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	78,000	77,800	79,600	200	- 1,600
Electric Services	43,700	43,500	44,300	200	- 600
Gas Production & Distribution	29,100	29,100	30,200	0	- 1,100
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1,565,200	1,572,400	1,513,600	- 7,200	51,600
Wholesale Trade	439,600	437,300	432,600	2,500	7,200
Retail Trade	1,125,400	1,135,100	1,081,000	- 9,700	44,400
Building Materials & Garden Supplies	51,800	51,600	46,900	200	4,900
General Merchandise Stores	140,900	148,800	139,600	- 7,900	1,300
Food Stores	205,000	204,700	193,900	300	11,100
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	131,000	130,800	126,200	200	4,800
Apparel & Accessory Stores	77,100	78,800	76,300	- 1,700	800
Other Retail Trade	519,600	520,400	498,100	- 800	21,500
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	400,400	396,300	381,400	4,100	19,000
Banking	103,200	102,300	102,000	900	1,200
Insurance Carriers, Agents & Brokers	123,300	122,600	121,600	700	1,700
Other Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	173,900	171,400	157,800	2,500	16,100
Services	1,200,700	1,190,600	1,157,100	10,100	43,600
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	74,500	73,900	71,400	600	3,100
Personal Services	74,000	72,700	72,900	1,300	1,100
Business & Repair Services	315,000	314,500	298,300	500	16,700
Amusement, Including Motion Pictures	50,200	49,400	44,000	800	6,200
Health Services	341,600	341,400	341,800	200	- 200
Educational Services	65,000	60,900	58,400	4,100	6,600
Other Services & Miscellaneous	280,400	277,800	270,300	2,600	10,100
Total Government	1,072,300	1,055,800	1,051,600	16,500	20,700
Total Federal Government	178,300	178,000	172,200	300	6,100
Total State Government	222,300	212,300	225,600	10,000	- 3,300
Total Local Government	671,700	665,500	653,800	6,200	17,900

1/ Estimated number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas without reference to place of residence of workers. ± Estimates of TEC in cooperation with Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment & Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.
* Preliminary -- subject to revision. ** Revised.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/
TEXAS STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**	Feb. '84*	Jan. '84**	Feb. '83**
	ABILENE			AMARILLO			AUSTIN		
Total Civilian Labor Force	76,800	77,000	77,100	98,700	98,600	95,900	335,100	331,700	323,100
Total Unemployment	3,000	4,100	4,400	4,700	5,500	5,900	9,500	13,000	17,100
Percent Unemployed	3.9	5.3	5.7	4.8	5.6	6.2	2.8	3.9	5.3
Total Employment 2/	73,800	72,900	72,700	94,000	93,100	90,000	325,600	318,700	306,000
	BEAUMONT-PT. A.-ORANGE			BROWNS.-HARL.-SAN BENITO			BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION		
Total Civilian Labor Force	175,600	175,800	184,100	90,800	91,700	91,000	55,900	53,700	54,600
Total Unemployment	19,300	22,500	28,500	12,400	14,700	15,000	2,000	2,600	2,700
Percent Unemployed	11.0	12.8	15.5	13.7	16.0	16.5	3.6	4.8	4.9
Total Employment 2/	156,300	153,300	155,600	78,400	77,000	76,000	53,900	51,100	51,900
	CORPUS CHRISTI			DALLAS-FORT WORTH 3/			EL PASO		
Total Civilian Labor Force	162,200	162,800	168,200	1,826.3	1,820.0	1,752.7	194,800	194,900	197,400
Total Unemployment	13,600	16,200	17,300	64.9	83.4	105.6	18,600	21,600	26,900
Percent Unemployed	8.4	10.0	10.3	3.6	4.6	6.0	9.5	11.1	13.6
Total Employment 2/	148,700	146,600	150,900	1,761.4	1,736.6	1,647.1	176,200	173,300	170,500
	GALVESTON-TEXAS CITY			HOUSTON 3/			KILLEEN-TEMPLE		
Total Civilian Labor Force	89,800	90,700	92,300	1,735.7	1,744.2	1,762.4	73,800	74,200	71,000
Total Unemployment	8,000	9,500	13,100	113.3	139.1	172.4	3,500	4,600	5,200
Percent Unemployed	8.9	10.5	14.2	6.5	8.0	9.8	4.7	6.2	7.3
Total Employment 2/	81,800	81,200	79,200	1,622.4	1,605.1	1,590.0	70,300	69,600	65,800
	LAREDO			LONGVIEW-MARSHALL			LUBBOCK		
Total Civilian Labor Force	38,900	40,100	43,100	78,500	79,500	80,500	112,600	112,200	112,400
Total Unemployment	7,400	9,000	12,300	6,400	8,000	10,100	6,400	8,200	7,100
Percent Unemployed	19.0	22.4	28.5	8.2	10.1	12.5	5.7	7.3	6.3
Total Employment 2/	31,500	31,100	30,800	72,100	71,500	70,400	106,200	104,000	105,300
	MCALLEN-PHARR-EDINBURG			MIDLAND			ODESSA		
Total Civilian Labor Force	117,300	118,300	119,400	69,200	68,900	64,200	73,400	73,800	72,500
Total Unemployment	27,100	30,400	24,300	2,700	3,400	3,900	3,900	5,000	6,200
Percent Unemployed	23.1	25.7	20.4	3.9	4.9	6.1	5.3	6.8	8.6
Total Employment 2/	90,200	87,900	95,100	66,500	65,500	60,300	69,500	68,800	66,300
	SAN ANGELO			SAN ANTONIO			SHERMAN-DENISON		
Total Civilian Labor Force	49,700	49,600	50,000	510,700	510,100	489,600	40,200	40,100	40,500
Total Unemployment	1,900	2,400	2,800	23,100	30,400	33,600	2,500	2,800	4,200
Percent Unemployed	3.8	4.8	5.6	4.5	6.0	6.9	6.2	7.0	10.4
Total Employment 2/	47,800	47,200	47,200	487,600	479,700	456,000	37,700	37,300	36,300
	TEXARKANA			TYLER			VICTORIA		
Total Civilian Labor Force	51,800	52,000	51,300	77,800	77,800	77,000	37,100	37,200	38,800
Total Unemployment	4,400	5,000	5,700	3,500	4,400	5,300	2,500	3,000	4,200
Percent Unemployed	8.5	9.6	11.1	4.5	5.7	6.9	6.7	8.1	10.8
Total Employment 2/	47,400	47,000	45,600	74,300	73,400	71,700	34,600	34,200	34,600
	WACO			WICHITA FALLS			STATE OF TEXAS 3/		
Total Civilian Labor Force	90,800	90,200	87,800	67,900	69,000	66,600	7,625.3	7,634.7	7,551.9
Total Unemployment	3,700	4,800	6,000	3,000	4,800	5,700	450.1	555.8	666.5
Percent Unemployed	4.1	5.3	6.8	4.4	7.0	8.6	5.9	7.3	8.8
Total Employment 2/	87,100	85,400	81,800	64,900	64,200	60,900	7,175.2	7,078.9	6,885.4

1/ All estimates shown are "actual" (not seasonally adjusted).
2/ Includes resident wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households, agricultural workers, and workers involved in labor-management disputes.
3 In thousands.
* Preliminary -- subject to revision. ** Revised.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN TEXAS*

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb.± 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983	Feb.± 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983	Feb.± 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
FOR TEXAS									
MANUFACTURING TOTAL	$376.41	$379.54	$350.00	41.5	41.8	40.0	$ 9.07	$ 9.08	$ 8.75
Durable Goods	372.07	371.65	351.42	41.9	41.9	40.3	8.88	8.87	8.72
Lumber & Wood Products	253.71	253.31	243.79	40.4	40.4	39.9	6.28	6.27	6.11
Furniture & Fixtures	228.14	222.15	231.21	38.8	38.5	38.6	5.88	5.77	5.99
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prods.	363.15	353.50	338.34	43.7	42.9	43.1	8.31	8.24	7.85
Primary Metal Industries	400.77	399.59	404.71	40.4	39.8	37.3	9.92	10.04	10.85
Fabricated Metal Products	357.35	363.26	347.77	40.7	41.0	38.9	8.78	8.86	8.94
Machinery, Exc. Electric	386.21	385.80	347.79	43.2	43.3	40.3	8.94	8.91	8.63
Oil Field Machinery	504.37	495.26	437.47	46.4	45.9	41.0	10.87	10.79	10.67
Elec. & Electronic Equip.	386.88	395.08	353.63	41.6	42.3	40.6	9.30	9.34	8.71
Transportation Equipment	511.73	508.47	481.38	43.7	44.1	42.6	11.71	11.53	11.30
Instr. & Related Products	305.36	308.48	303.66	39.3	39.6	38.1	7.77	7.79	7.97
Misc. Mfg. Industries	274.01	282.09	269.68	39.2	39.9	39.6	6.99	7.07	6.81
Nondurable Goods	381.71	389.90	349.36	41.0	41.7	39.7	9.31	9.35	8.80
Food & Kindred Products	331.85	346.70	302.25	41.9	43.5	40.9	7.92	7.97	7.39
Meat Products	279.60	284.93	276.34	41.3	42.4	41.0	6.77	6.72	6.74
Malt Beverages	648.90	666.39	629.34	42.0	43.3	42.9	15.45	15.39	14.67
Textile Mill Products	265.68	279.84	261.18	40.5	42.4	42.4	6.56	6.60	6.16
Apprl. & Other Text. Prods.	185.86	186.62	170.65	37.7	37.7	35.7	4.93	4.95	4.78
Paper & Allied Products	415.59	424.98	397.38	43.7	44.5	43.1	9.51	9.55	9.22
Printing & Publishing	337.73	342.34	317.24	39.5	39.9	38.5	8.55	8.58	8.24
Chemicals & Allied Products	589.95	600.66	507.53	41.9	42.6	39.9	14.08	14.10	12.72
Petroleum & Coal Products	631.03	632.84	582.24	43.7	44.1	42.1	14.44	14.35	13.83
Petroleum Refining	644.41	646.36	595.72	43.6	44.0	42.1	14.78	14.69	14.15
Leather & Leather Products	209.04	201.47	193.03	39.0	36.9	38.3	5.36	5.46	5.04
Other Nondurable Goods	364.23	374.11	343.09	42.5	43.2	42.2	8.57	8.66	8.13
NONMANUFACTURING									
Mining	492.10	503.61	455.93	47.5	48.1	46.1	10.36	10.47	9.89
Oil & Gas Extraction	495.90	508.99	457.31	47.5	48.2	46.1	10.44	10.56	9.92
Met/Coal/Nonmet Mnrls, Exc Fuel	398.05	380.05	414.96	47.9	45.9	45.4	8.31	8.28	9.14
Comm., Exc. U.S. Postal Service	422.37	433.29	381.27	39.0	39.0	37.9	10.83	11.11	10.06
Elec., Gas, & San. Svcs.	438.24	449.82	405.72	41.5	42.0	41.4	10.56	10.71	9.80
Wholesale & Retail Trade	235.27	237.36	224.45	34.7	34.6	33.6	6.78	6.86	6.68
Wholesale Trade	359.10	364.80	349.27	39.9	40.0	39.6	9.00	9.12	8.82
Retail Trade	189.66	190.71	177.47	32.7	32.6	31.3	5.80	5.85	5.67
General Mdse. Stores	157.87	162.35	159.55	28.6	29.2	28.8	5.52	5.56	5.54
Banking	247.63	262.75	240.54	40.2	40.8	38.0	6.16	6.44	6.33

HOURS AND EARNINGS FOR SELECTED TEXAS STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

DALLAS-FORT WORTH									
Manufacturing	$369.77	$375.90	$348.00	41.5	42.0	40.0	$ 8.91	$ 8.95	$ 8.70
Durable Goods	389.76	392.88	366.11	42.0	42.2	40.1	9.28	9.31	9.13
Nondurable Goods	325.62	339.44	311.20	40.5	41.7	40.0	8.04	8.14	7.78
HOUSTON									
Manufacturing	474.96	472.61	424.67	43.1	43.2	39.8	11.02	10.94	10.67
Durable Goods	413.42	416.98	375.20	43.2	43.3	38.8	9.57	9.63	9.67
Nondurable Goods	552.12	544.75	490.32	42.9	43.2	41.1	12.87	12.61	11.93
SAN ANTONIO									
Manufacturing	272.83	266.66	263.20	40.3	39.8	40.0	6.77	6.70	6.58
Durable Goods	295.71	285.32	286.62	40.9	40.3	41.3	7.23	7.08	6.94
Nondurable Goods	248.69	248.22	240.95	39.6	39.4	38.8	6.28	6.30	6.21

*Figures for Texas and selected areas cover Production Workers in Manufacturing and Mining Industries only and Nonsupervisory Employees in other industry divisions. Earnings' averages include premium pay for overtime, holidays, and for late-shift work. ±Preliminary -- subject to revisions upon receipt of additional reports.

SOURCE: TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

goods, the largest increase occurred in nonelectrical machinery, where refrigeration and heating equipment showed the most gain. Electric and electronic equipment recorded a moderate rise in jobs in February, despite a decrease in the communication equipment sector.

Stone, clay and glass products employment increased on the strength of increased orders, primarily for concrete, gypsum and plaster products. Gains in fabricated structural metal products were the main source of the increase in fabricated metal products over the month. Smaller growth was noted in most of the other durable goods sectors. The only durable goods loss occurred in transportation equipment, where a layoff in aircraft and parts dropped employment somewhat.

TEXAS LABOR MARKET REVIEWS

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TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

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Although the nondurable goods sector contributed almost as many jobs as durable goods, over two-thirds of the nondurables' growth was centered in one industry -- food and kindred products. Within this category, processing picked up as the preserved fruit and vegetables sector returned to normal following the decline in January related to the December freeze. Other nondurable goods industries posted minimal increases, with the exception of leather and leather products which registered a loss as some part-time jobs were deleted. The number of manufacturing production workers in Texas rose by 4,500 between January and February, to 653,800. The current production worker total was 10,200 above the year-ago estimate.

HOURS AND EARNINGS DROP

The average manufacturing production worker in February worked 41.5 hours per week for $9.07 an hour, averaging $376.41 per week. Average weekly hours declined by 0.3 hour between January and February, and hourly earnings dropped 1¢. Average weekly earnings declined by $3.13 over the month.

QUARTERLY UI BENEFITS PAID BY SMSA*

Quarter Ending December 31, 1983

Abilene	$ 926,797
Amarillo	1,613,365
Austin	2,620,762
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange	11,666,120
Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito	4,760,215
Bryan-College Station	613,738
Corpus Christi	7,887,900
Dallas-Fort Worth	22,923,578
El Paso	6,649,607
Galveston-Texas City	3,882,609
Houston	66,204,870
Killeen-Temple	764,429
Laredo	2,978,880
Longview-Marshall	3,662,771
Lubbock	2,821,931
McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg	6,851,031
Midland	1,389,583
Odessa	2,433,552
San Angelo	540,327
San Antonio	6,859,443
Sherman-Denison	834,490
Texarkana (Bowie Co. only)	832,921
Tyler	1,372,357
Victoria	1,306,673
Waco	1,074,832
Wichita Falls	1,203,038

*Regular UI benefits paid during quarter.

TEC ACTIVITIES

	Feb. 1984	Feb. 1983
Total Population	16,141,300	15,557,800
% UI Covered Unemployment	2.0	3.1
UI Covered Employers	296,839	288,312
Total Claims Actions	575,621	824,867
Total Initial Claims Actions	65,079	82,505
Total Cont'd. Claims Actions	510,542	742,362
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amount	$131.53	$132.67
Total Amount Paid (Net)*	$58,807,792	$89,373,041
Total Placements	34,328	26,672

*Includes amounts paid in regular State UI benefits.